

Please amend the application as follows.

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph spanning lines 13-15 of page 1.

Please insert the following paragraph after the title "Field of the Invention" on page 1:

C¹ This application claims benefit of 35 U.S.C. section 119(e) based on copending U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/035,496, filed January 14, 1997, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 40, 45, 47, 50, 53-55, 72, 88, 104, 136, and 148 with the following amended claims:

C² 40. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a first amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the entire length of a second amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) amino acid residues 1 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) amino acid residues 2 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) amino acid residues 31 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (d) amino acid residues 31 to 283 of SEQ ID NO:2;

wherein a protein consisting of said first amino acid sequence binds Fas ligand.

C³ 45. (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 encoding a first amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a second amino acid sequence according to (d).

C⁴ 47. (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 that comprises a nucleotide sequence heterologous to SEQ ID NO:1.

C⁵ 50. (Twice Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 44.